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REPORT

— OF THE —

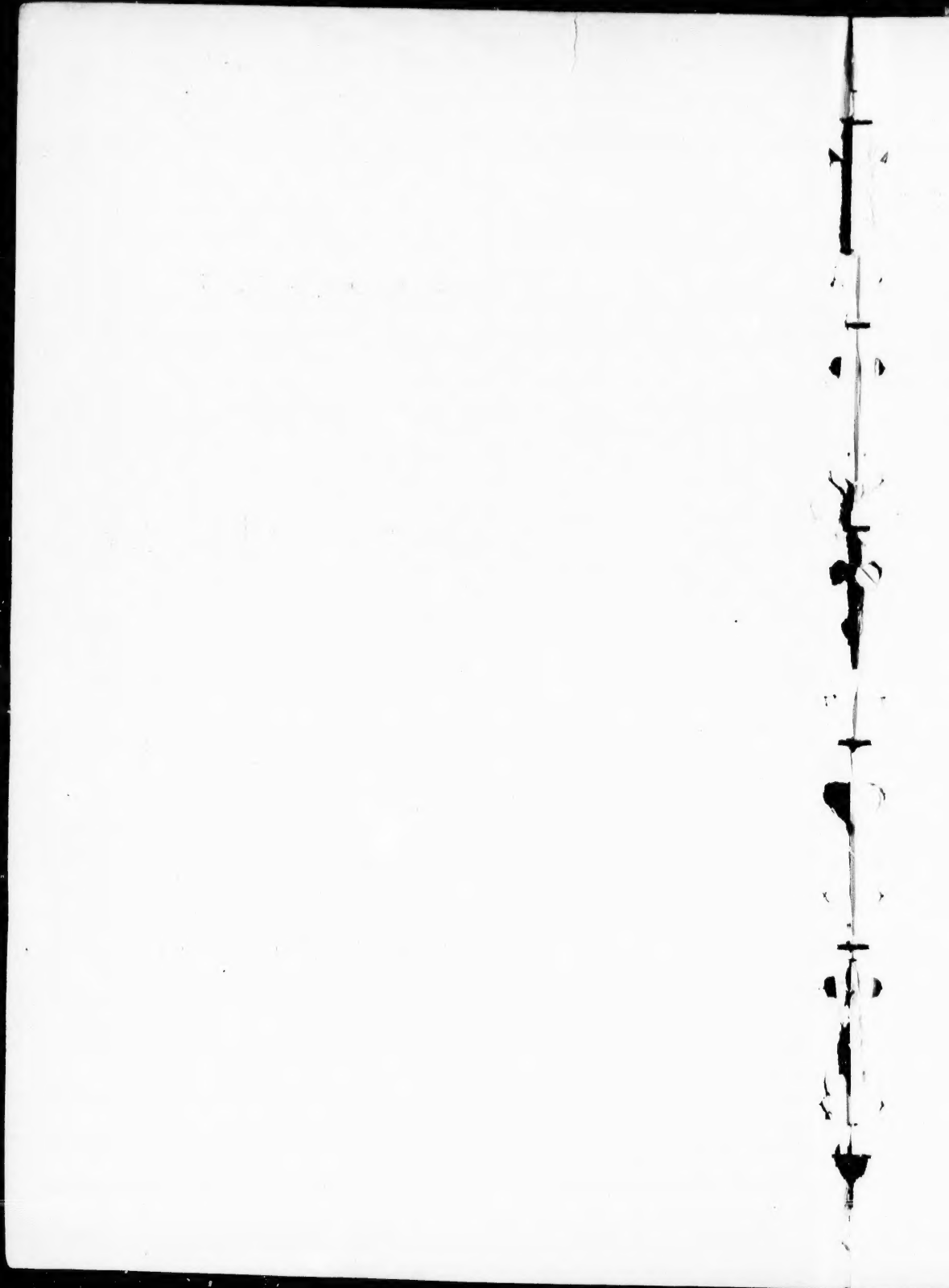
DELEGATES TO OTTAWA

TO DISCUSS THE

DISALLOWANCE POLICY

— AND THE —

ABROGATION OF MONOPOLY



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To His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

In accordance with the suggestion made by the Leader of the Government to the House on the 1st day of March last, the undersigned as delegates on behalf of the Manitoba Government, upon the invitation of the Premier of Canada proceeded to Ottawa for the purpose of discussing the question of the disallowance policy of the Federal Government and to urge upon them the desirability of discontinuing such policy and of abrogating monopoly in Manitoba and the North-West Territory.

Your delegates shortly after their arrival at Ottawa had an interview with the Executive Council of Canada and urged the settlement of the question on the foregoing basis.

During their stay at the Capital several interviews were held with the Right Honorable the Premier of Canada and certain statements were submitted for the information of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council copies of which together with the answers received as well as letters and telegrams from the Right Honorable the Premier of Canada are herewith submitted.

(Signed) THOS. GREENWAY,
JOSEPH MARTIN.

Winnipeg, 20th April, 1888.

Memorandum respecting the visit of the delegation of the Manitoba Government in reference to the disallowance of Provincial Legislation.

The undersigned respectfully submits the following for the information of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council

That through the intervention of certain residents of Manitoba who loyally and patriotically desired to bring about an amicable settlement of the leading question involved in the recent disallowance of Manitoba legislation; the Right Honorable the Premier of Canada was led to express a wish, verbally and in writing, for a conference with the undersigned and one or more of his colleagues in the Government of Manitoba.

That in view of the expressed wish of the Right Hon. the Premier of Canada and considering the great desirability of such an amicable settlement, the undersigned and his colleagues in the Government of Manitoba were disposed to look with favor upon the proposition.

That before assenting to such a conference the undersigned requested the member representing Marquette in the House of Commons to wait upon the Right Hon. the Premier of Canada to personally ascertain from him if he was prepared to request such a conference, having in view that the undersigned and his colleagues in the Government of Manitoba had publicly declared their policy with regard to the leading question at issue, and from which policy it was not their intention to recede.

That having in view all the circumstances of the case, and being fully possessed of the knowledge that the undersigned and his colleagues in

the Government of Manitoba were pledged to pursue a certain line of policy, the Right Hon. the Premier of Canada still signified his desire for such a conference, with a further knowledge of that which was implied in so repeating his desire for such a meeting.

That in consequence of such verbal and written communications from the Right Hon. the Premier of Canada, the undersigned recommended the adjournment of the Provincial Legislature until the 15th instant, and, accompanied by the Hon. the Attorney General for the Province of Manitoba, arrived in Ottawa at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, the 6th instant.

That a notification of the arrival of the undersigned and his colleague was conveyed to the Right Hon. the Premier of Canada on the 6th instant, and the undersigned with his colleague was invited to confer with the members of the Executive Council of Canada on Thursday, the 8th instant, such conference being in the nature of a preliminary meeting and yielding no indication of the intention of the Dominion Government as to settlement of the leading question at issue.

That the undersigned, at the suggestion of the Right Hon. the Premier of Canada, telegraphed to procure a still further adjournment of the Provincial Legislature until the 22nd instant, in order that full time might be allowed for the deliberations of the Dominion Government.

That no further meeting has so far been arranged between the Executive Council of Canada and the undersigned and his colleague with reference to the leading question at issue.

That it will be absolutely necessary for the undersigned to leave Ottawa (in order to meet the Manitoba Legislature) not later than Friday next, the 16th instant.

Therefore the undersigned respectfully submits that having invited the conference as above stated, and having been made aware of the intention of the undersigned and his colleague to attend such conference, under certain conditions, and much time having elapsed without any progress in the premises, the Right Hon. the Premier of Canada should no longer postpone the conference, but appoint an early meeting in order that the undersigned and his colleague may be made aware of the propositions which the Dominion Government intend to make to the undersigned and his colleague (as representing the Government of Manitoba) with a view to a friendly settlement of the leading question at issue.

The undersigned respectfully submits that in consequence of the invitation to confer with the Executive Council of Canada with respect to the leading question at issue, the people of Manitoba are possessed with great hopes of an immediate and favorable settlement, and should no decision be arrived at before the departure of the undersigned the feeling of disappointment will be correspondingly great, and that such failure will tend still further to increase the dissatisfaction that now exists in that Province with regard to the course pursued hitherto by the Government of the Dominion in respect of the disallowance of Provincial legislation.

The undersigned would beg to draw the attention of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council to the immense importance to Manitoba

and the Dominion at large of an immediate solution of a question which involves the immediate future of that Province. Pending such solution, immigration is postponed and trade is paralyzed. New enterprises, necessary to the development of the Province, are prevented, and capital is deterred from investment by the uncertainties of the position. With a favorable arrangement which will enable the Province to work out its own destiny, the next few months will witness an unprecedented influx of immigration and capital into Manitoba, which under the present conditions cannot be hoped for. The undersigned feels that he cannot too strongly urge these considerations upon the attention of His Excellency's advisers.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Sd)

THOMAS GREENWAY,
PREMIER OF MANITOBA
AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.

Ottawa, March 13th, 1888.

OTTAWA, March 13th 1888.

SIR,

I have the honor to transmit for the information of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council a memorandum respecting the visit of the delegation from the Manitoba Government in reference to the disallowance of Provincial Legislation, and which I have the honor to request you will submit to the Executive Council of Canada at the earliest possible moment.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd)

THOS. GREENWAY,
PREMIER OF MANITOBA,
AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Ottawa.

OTTAWA, 13th March, 1888.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, transmitting for the information of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, a memorandum relative to the visit to Ottawa of a delegation from the Government of Manitoba in connection, as therein set forth, with the disallowance of certain Provincial legislation, and to state that the matter will receive attention.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd)

G. POWELL,
UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Honorable
Thomas Greenway,
Premier of Manitoba,
Ottawa.

Supplementary memorandum respecting the visit of the delegation of the Government of Manitoba with reference to the disallowance of Provincial legislation.

The undersigned respectfully submits for the further information of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, and in continuation of his memorandum of the 13th instant.

That on the 14th inst. he received from the Department of the Hon. the Secretary of State a formal acknowledgment of his memorandum of the 13th inst.

That such acknowledgment contained no official recognition of the facts and statements contained in the memorandum submitted, nor was any appointment made therein for a further meeting of conference.

That on the 14th instant the undersigned was verbally invited to wait upon the Right Hon. the Premier of Canada, and upon his doing so, was informed by him that no further step could be taken to accomplish the errand of the delegation until after the arrival of the President and other officials of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and it was further suggested by the Right Hon. the Premier of Canada that the undersigned should telegraph to postpone the meeting of the Manitoba Legislature for ten days instead of a week as first proposed by him, the inducement being that before the expiry of that time some definite assurance would be given to the undersigned with respect to the leading question at issue.

That before consenting to a further delay in the meeting of the Manitoba Legislature, it was necessary for the undersigned to consult his colleague, and upon doing so it was decided to accede to the expressed wish of the Right Hon. the Premier of Canada.

That the President and other officials of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company arrived in Ottawa, and the undersigned is credibly informed, had an interview with members of the Executive Council of Canada.

That subsequently to that interview, Sir George Stephen voluntarily informed the undersigned, personally, that no proposition had been made by the Dominion Government on the one hand or by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company on the other hand, having any reference to the errand of the delegation of the Manitoba Government.

That the undersigned was at a loss to understand such a statement, especially when being informed by the Right Hon. the Premier of Canada immediately subsequently to the statement made by Sir George Stephen that the Government of Canada had met the President of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and that the matter in question was progressing favorably.

That this (the 16th inst.) being the day fixed by the undersigned for his departure from Ottawa, previous to making the further adjournment of the Manitoba Legislature eleven days instead of one week in compliance with the request of the Right Hon. the Premier of Canada, the

undersigned cannot allow time to pass without a protest against further delay in naming a time for the conference between the members of the Dominion Government and the delegates of the Government of Manitoba with reference to the leading question at issue.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed)

THOS. GREENWAY,
PREMIER OF MANITOBA,
AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.

Ottawa, March 16th, 1888.

OTTAWA, March 16th, 1888.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith a supplementary memorandum respecting the visit of the delegation of the Government of Manitoba with reference to the disallowance of Provincial legislation for the further information of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, and have to request that you will lay it before His Excellency's advisers at the earliest possible moment.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd)

THOS. GREENWAY,
PREMIER OF MANITOBA
AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.

The Honorable,
The Secretary of State,
Ottawa.

OTTAWA, March 17th, 1888.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, transmitting for the further information of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, a supplementary memorandum respecting the visit of the delegation of the Government of Manitoba with reference to the disallowance of Provincial legislation, and to state that the same will receive consideration.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd)

G. POWELL,
UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Honorable
Thomas Greenway,
Premier of Manitoba,
Russell House,
Ottawa.

Final memorandum respecting the visit of the delegation of the Manitoba Government in reference to the disallowance of Provincial legislation.

The undersigned submits for the further information of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council:

That, as related in his memorandum of the 13th and 16th instant, the undersigned and his colleague visited Ottawa at the special and reiterated invitation of the Right Hon. the Premier of Canada, for the purpose of conferring with the Executive Council of Canada with reference to the leading question at issue in the disallowance of Provincial legislation.

That since the 6th instant the undersigned, with his colleague, has awaited the pleasure of the Government of Canada, but have failed to receive any official recognition of their presence at the seat of Government.

That the presence of the undersigned and his colleague at Ottawa is due solely to their great desire to meet the Government of Canada in an accommodating and conciliatory spirit, and must not be construed as an indication of their yielding to the Government of the Dominion those inalienable rights possessed by the Province of Manitoba in common with the other Provinces constituting the Dominion of Canada, which the undersigned and his colleagues in the Government of Manitoba consider have been infringed by the unconstitutional use of the prerogative of disallowance exercised by His Excellency the Governor-General at the instance of his advisers in the Government of Canada.

That the undersigned fears lest by any further concessions to the verbal and unofficially expressed wishes of the Right Hon. the Premier of Canada he may be so far misunderstood as to be considered as a suppliant for favors at the hands of the Government of the Dominion, whereas he is simply the vehicle by which is conveyed to the Government of Canada the determined intention of the Government and people of Manitoba to oppose any further infringement of the constitutional rights guaranteed to that Province by an Act of the Imperial Parliament.

That the undersigned and his colleague do not consider it compatible with their position, and the dignity of the Province which they represent, to further delay their departure from Ottawa, the more especially so as up to the present time no indication has been received from the Government of the Dominion of a recognition of their presence as a delegation from the Government of Manitoba specially invited to conference with the Government of the Dominion with reference to the leading question at issue.

That the undersigned and his colleague abstain from any further reference to the Government of the Dominion as to the questions at issue, the matter having been laid before Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen in Council, to whom the people of Manitoba confidently appeal for that

justice and consideration which is apparently denied them by the Government of Canada.

That the undersigned and his colleague as delegates from the Government and people of Manitoba desire to place on record their unaltered and unswerving loyalty and allegiance to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, and their determination to preserve the rights, privileges and immunities which have been granted to them under the British North America Act, and which as freemen and good subjects they are bound to maintain against infraction so long as Her Majesty may see fit to confirm them in the exercise of their rights.

The undersigned and his colleague most respectfully submit that they have done and will do all that lies in their power to lead to a speedy and satisfactory settlement of the questions at issue, short of submission to any further infringement of the constitutional rights guaranteed to the Province of Manitoba in common with the other Provinces of the Dominion of Canada by the British North America Act.

The undersigned and his colleague desire therefore to place on record that any failure in arranging for the conference invited by the Right Hon. the Premier of Canada is not due to any lack of desire upon their part, as they have held themselves constantly in readiness for such a meeting since their arrival at the seat of Government.

The undersigned and his colleague desire also to place on record that the attention of the Government of the Dominion has repeatedly been drawn to the disastrous effects to the people of Manitoba of the pursuance of a policy of disallowance of Provincial legislation, especially in so far as regards transport facilities for its produce, which will this year result in untold losses in the marketing of last year's bounteous crop. If the blessings of Providence are to be counteracted by a grasping railway monopoly through the connivance of Government, it will be impossible to predict the results, and the undersigned and his colleagues in the Government of Manitoba desire to be absolved from any responsibility for that which may occur from the failure of negotiations which have inspired in the people of Manitoba most fervent hopes of a speedy and favorable settlement of the leading question at issue.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Sd)

THOS. GREENWAY,
PREMIER OF MANITOBA
AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.

(Sd)

JOSEPH MARTIN,
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Ottawa, March 19th, 1888,
at 6 o'clock p. m.

OTTAWA, March 19th, 1888.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith for the information of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council a final memorandum respecting the visit of the delegation of the Manitoba Government in reference to the disallowance of Provincial legislation, and which I have to request you will lay before His Excellency's advisers at the earliest possible moment.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd)

THOS. GREENWAY,

PREMIER OF MANITOBA

AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.

The Honorable,
The Secretary of State,
Ottawa.

OTTAWA, 20th March, 1888.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant transmitting for the information of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, a final memorandum respecting the visit of the delegation of the Manitoba Government in reference to the disallowance of Provincial legislation and to state that the same will receive consideration.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd)

G. POWELL,

UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Honorable
Thomas Greenway,
Premier of Manitoba,
Winnipeg,
Manitoba.

TELEGRAM.

OTTAWA, Ont., March 20th 1888.

To Hon. Thomas Greenway,
Queen's Hotel,
Toronto.

I regret your hasty departure. Matters making as rapid progress as possible. I hope you will return and stay for a few days. Please answer

(Sd)

JOHN A. McDONALD.

TELEGRAM.

TORONTO, 20th March, 1888.

Right Honorable
Sir John A. Macdonald,
Ottawa:

Would try and arrange to wait two or three days longer if then
 could get definite answer on the all-important question.

(Sd) THOMAS GREENWAY.

TELEGRAM.

OTTAWA, March 21st, 1888.

Hon. Thos. Greenway,
Exeter:

Your message arrived too late to answer last night. Complete settle-
 ment of the great question will take time, but I believe the principle of
 adjustment can be agreed on in a few days.

(Sd) JOHN A. MACDONALD.

TELEGRAM.

LONDON, 21st March, 1888.

Right Honorable
Sir J. A. Macdonald,
Ottawa:

Will leave here for Ottawa to-morrow morning.

(Sd) THOS. GREENWAY.

LETTER.

MY DEAR SIR JOHN:

Mr. Martin and myself have returned to the city. We should be
 pleased to hear from you at your convenience.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd) THOS. GREENWAY.

Russell House,
 23rd March, 1888.

LETTER.

OTTAWA, March 23, 1888.

MY DEAR SIR,

I shall be glad to see you at the Privy Council office to-day at 12.30.

Yours very truly,

(Sd)

JOHN A. MACDONALD

The Hon.

T. Greenway.

LETTER.

OTTAWA, March 30th, 1888.

DEAR SIR,

As you are obliged to leave Ottawa soon I take this opportunity of saying that there is a good prospect of legislation by the Federal Parliament during this session, which will almost, if not entirely, remove the reasons for the exercise of the power of disallowance of your Provincial legislation with regard to railways.

Meanwhile I would remind you that the policy which has been pursued in the past has, as stated by Sir Charles Tupper and the Minister of the Interior, been assumed to be a temporary one, justified in the first place by the necessity of securing the construction of an all rail route through Canadian territory, and in the second place of protecting the Canadian Pacific Railway for a reasonable period and until the traffic resources of Manitoba and the territories had been sufficiently developed.

The great and unexpected harvest of last season and the increased area proposed to be sown this year prove that additional facilities for the transport eastward of the agricultural products of the Northwest will be required, and while I have reason to believe that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company will make large expenditures to enable it to handle this increased traffic, the administration will not advise the disallowance of a bill similar in principle to the Act for the construction of the Red River Valley Railway.

Should the C.P.R. branch railway to Emerson be bought or leased by Manitoba no legislation will, I suppose, be required.

I remain, dear sir,

Yours very truly,

(Sd)

JOHN A. MACDONALD.

The Hon.

Thomas Greenway,
Ottawa.

OTTAWA, 30th March, 1888.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, and to thank you for the assurance which it contains, at the same time I desire to point out that, while the letter is satisfactory with regard to the discontinuance of the disallowance policy, I have understood from our several conversations upon the subject that the Government of Canada have about concluded an arrangement with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company by which the monopoly clause of its contract is to be abrogated.

The policy of my Government is to favor such an arrangement affecting, as it would, a large part of Manitoba, comprising that portion known as the newly added territory, and also the North-West Territory with which the people of Manitoba have close ties and warm sympathies.

I can understand that as such an arrangement requires legislation to carry it into effect, you do not feel in a position to give me any writing upon that subject, but I may say that I am entirely satisfied with the verbal assurances given me by you that such an arrangement would be carried out.

Yours very truly,

(Sd)

THOS. GREENWAY

To the Right Hon.

Sir J. A. Macdonald,
Ottawa.